

# USERS' NEWS

FEBRUARY, 1981

VOL. 1, NO. 12

## 2000 ATTEND COMPUTERAMA

RADIO SHACK'S Computerama '81 was held at the Hyatt Regency in Houston, on January 20, 1981.

According to Emmett Duenke, District Manager for Radio Shack, approximately 2000 computer enthusiasts attended the show.

Computerama '81 featured a number of Radio Shack items, including the TRS-80 Color Computer, the TRS-80 Pocket Computer, and TRS-80 Videotex.

Also demonstrated at the show were Visicalc and Scripsit.

Duenke noted that the '81 show was the third annual show sponsored by Radio Shack. Over 100 shows are being held throughout the nation this year.

The show featured several areas where those attending operated the computers. Most of the areas were for those who have had little or no experience with the Radio Shack line of computers.

Demonstrations of the computer line were held throughout the day culminating in the drawing for the give-away of two Radio Shack computers.

TONY JOHNSON of McCormick Oil & Gas was the winner of the TRS-80 Pocket Computer and RONALD W. DELORME of the Union Carbide Company in Bellaire won the TRS-80 Color Computer.



MORE THAN 32 TRS-80 computers were set up in the main demonstration area of Radio Shack's Computerama '81. Here those attending saw a film showing the Radio Shack computer line and then were given the opportunity to operate the computers.

## T.K.S.

Special "THANKS" go to the following people for their extra-special help with this issue of USERS' NEWS.

Ben Taylor  
Bill Young  
Robert Eden  
Emery Wood

Also, "Thanks" to all who submitted items for this issue of our newsletter.

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TRS-80 is a trademark of Tandy Corp.

## NEXT MEETING

Date: FEBRUARY 4, 1981

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

Program: Hardware Demonstration by KEVIN TAYLOR of COMPUTEX

The "IF" statement explained by DON PATTON.

Assembly Language explained by MERRICK JOHNSON.

"Basic", cont.  
by KIP BARTRAN.

Etc.

## A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By BILL YOUNG

WELCOME TO THE USERS' NEWS. We have a new Editor as of this issue and I hope everyone will give her their support.

80-COMPUTER USERS OF HOUSTON exists to provide an environment for communication and mutual help. This group gives us all a way to get together with other TRS-80 owners and users. Through the group, we can share our knowledge and enthusiasm. If we are going to get the most out of our association, we need to remember that the more we participate, the more we will benefit from the club.

80-COMPUTER USERS OF HOUSTON is a very loosely organized group. We have a President, a Vice-President/Treasurer and a Secretary. These three officers determine the policies and business procedures of the group. The meetings are primarily for the members to get the most information and help from the club programs and discussions. Business or organizational meetings are held after the group meetings and during the month. Anyone wishing to discuss the group's business is encouraged to contact myself or any group officer during the month or after the meetings.

All meetings consist of a demonstration or presentation by members or by an outside speaker, followed by the "Round Robin". The "Round Robin" gives everyone an opportunity to tell the members of the group what he is currently doing. We are always interested in your experiences with software---both good and bad. Any reports on hardware which you have tried can be shared with the group at this time. A reference to some particular item in the Round Robin will allow other members with similar interests to contact you after the meeting.

Anyone wishing to present a program, or give a talk on some subject that will be of interest to the group is strongly urged to contact an officer. We would like a mixture of topics from as many sources as possible to present different points of view and ideas. Remember, if no one participates, the group will not progress, or even continue to exist. Thanks for your help.

Etc.

THOMAS COOK submits the following solution to the problem of not remembering the name of a system tape. After you get your program ready, enter the following:

```
10 INPUT #-1,A$
20 PRINT MID$(A$,2,6)
RUN
```

This will then permit the computer to start the tape, read it, and display the name of the system tape.

ROBERT EDEN reports that for auto execution of system tapes, append the following lines to the beginning of your programs:

10 ORG 41E2H

20 DEFB 233

30 ORG XXXXH

(rest of program)

### USERS' NEWS

EDITOR: Brigitte Schaefer

PRODUCTION: John Schaefer

THE PROGRAM DOCTOR: E. Wood

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Bill Young

TAPE LIBRARY: Floyd Atkinson

NOTES FROM COMPUSERVE:

Ben Taylor

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# POCKET COMPUTER DATABASE

By W.K. Weilbacher ©1980

```

10 BEEP1
20 X=26:X=X+Z
30 GOTO50
40 V$="CLEARS":N$="DATA":PAUSE V$,N$:CLEAR:BEEP3:X=27:C=1:Z=1:GOTO50
50 PAUSE Z:INPUT"NAME";A$(X)
60 PAUSE A$(X):IF A$(X)=""GOTO50
70 IF A$(X)="C"GOSUB260:GOTO210
80 IF A$(X)="S"GOSUB260:GOTO270
90 IF A$(X)="L"GOSUB260:GOTO320
100 IF A$(X)="P"GOSUB260:GOTO180
110 X=X+1
120 INPUT"PHONE";A$(X)
130 PAUSE A$(X):IF A$(X)=""GOTO120
140 X=X+1:Z=X-26:INPUT"PRINT ?":V$
150 IF V$="Y"THEN180
160 IF Z>100 LET Z=100:PRINT"CANNOT":END
170 GOTO50
180 FOR Y=27 TO 127:PAUSEY-26;A$(Y)
190 IF A$(Y)=""V$="":GOTO330
200 NEXTY:GOTO50
210 INPUT"CHG #";C
220 IF C>100THEN210
230 IFC<1THEN210
240 C=C+26:INPUT"N. INFO";A$(C)
250 PAUSE C-26,A$(C):GOTO50
260 A$(X)="":RETURN
270 INPUT"S. NAME";B$
280 FOR Y=27 TO 127:IF A$(Y)=B$THEN 310
290 IF A$(Y)=""THEN 330
300 NEXT Y
310 BEEP2:PRINT A$(Y):Y=Y+1:PRINT A$(Y):GOTO50
320 INPUT "LIST #";Y:Y=Y+26:PRINT Y-26;A$(Y):GOTO50
330 Y=127:NEXTY:GOTO50

```

CREATING QUICKER GRAPHICS  
BY JOE STANFIELD

I HAVE FOUND THAT TRYING TO CREATE A LARGE AMOUNT OF SCREEN GRAPHICS CAN CAUSE VERY LONG DELAYS IN EXECUTION TIME OF MY PROGRAMS. THEREFORE, I OFFER THIS APPROACH TO SPEED THEM UP. ALL THE PROGRAMMING IS IN BASIC SO IT IS SIMPLE TO ADD TO MOST PROGRAMS.

THE KEY TO THIS METHOD IS TO BUILD THE ENTIRE GRAPHIC DISPLAY AT THE BEGINNING OF A PROGRAM AND ASSIGN IT A STRING VARIABLE NAME SUCH AS G1\$. THEN WHEN YOU NEED TO USE IT, JUST USE THE PRINT@ STATEMENT AND INSTEAD OF BEING DRAWN ON THE SCREEN, IT WILL APPEAR ALMOST INSTANTANEOUSLY!!

A USEFUL TRICK IS TO ASSIGN THE MOST COMMON GRAPHICS CHARACTERS A STRING NAME TO SAVE PROGRAM SPACE. EX: A1\$=CHR\$(191)

THERE ARE SOME PITFALLS AND YOU MUST USE A ; TO CONNECT PRINT LINES TO PREVENT CLEARING A PORTION OF YOUR DISPLAY. THE FOLLOWING IS A SHORT PROGRAM TO DRAW A BOX AROUND THE OUTSIDE OF THE SCREEN AND THEN PUT SOME TEXT INSIDE IT.

NOTICE ALSO THE SPACE BETWEEN LINES 120 & 190, AND BETWEEN LINES 250 & 2000. THESE HELP SEPARATE A PROGRAM INTO DISTINCT BLOCKS AND CAN BE ACHIEVED BY ADDING A DOWN ARROW AT THE END OF THE PROGRAM LINE.

```
10 '                                GRAPHICS PROGRAM BY JOE STANFIELD
22 '                                ASSIGN INITIAL VALUES
25 CLEAR1500
30 CD$=CHR$(26):'                  CURSOR DOWN
40 GA$=CHR$(191):GB$=CHR$(131):GC$=CHR$(176):'  GRAPHICS BLOCKS
50 '                                BUILD A VERTICAL LINE OF 14 BLOCKS
60 FORX=1TO13:G1$=GA$+CD$+STRING$(1,24):G2$=G2$+G1$:NEXTX
80 '                                BUILD HORIZONTAL LINES
90 G3$=STRING$(58,131):G4$=STRING$(58,176)
100 '                               ADD ALL GRAPHICS TOGETHER
110 G5$=G2$+GA$+G4$+STRING$(58,24)+STRING$(14,27)
120 G6$=G3$+G2$+GA$

190 '                               PRINT BOX
200 CLS:PRINT@66,G5$;:PRINT@67,G6$;
210 PRINT@270,"ENTER THE SECRET PASSWORD:";
220 GOSUB2000:IFASC(CH$)=13THEN240
230 SP$=SP$+CH$:GOTO220
240 PRINT@590,"THE SECRET PASSWORD IS: "SP$;
250 GOSUB2000:SP$="":GOTO190

2000 '                               INKEY SUBROUTINE
2010 CH$=INKEY$:IFCH$=""THEN2010ELSEReturn
```

## PROGRAMS, etc...

By W.K. WEILBACHER

This is the first database for the pocket computer. It is bug free as far as I can tell. This is essentially a 100 record file, each record 7 characters maximum with 4 modes of processing. It can be altered to maintain any type of list, sacrificing from file size will allow lines of code for mathematical computations.

Reserve keys are set for input and output of data files as:

```
A:RUN 40 --- CLEARS DATA FILE, BEGINS NEW DATA FILE
X:PRINT#"DATA" --- PRINTS DATA FILE TO TAPE
G:INPUT#"DATA" --- LOADS DATA FILE FROM TAPE
C:CSAVE"NAME" --- SAVES PROGRAM TO TAPE
L:CLOAD"NAME" --- LOADS PROGRAM INTO COMPUTER
```

Reserve keys are set in reserve mode using the shift key.

## PROGRAM INSTRUCTIONS

The word "name" will appear when you run the program. Put in a name to be filed in the database. The word "phone" will appear on the display. Put in a phone number. In the righthand corner of the display, a number will appear, indicating the record number currently being used. You have 100 positions in the file. Each is 7 characters in length.

When the word "name" is displayed, you may then search, list, change or print the entire file. The functions of the program are (AT 'NAME'):

```
C --- CHANGE THE INFORMATION AT A LOCATION NUMBER
S --- ALLOWS SEARCH FOR A NAME IN THE FILE. DISPLAYS
      NAME. PRESS ENTER FOR PHONE #.
P --- PRINTS WHOLE FILE. PRESS 'ON' KEY TO BREAK
      PROGRAM AND STOP LIST.
L --- LIST A # IN THE FILE
```

At Print? Inputting a Y will print the entire file. Any other key will return the name command.

```

**note**   Line 40 clears all data.   Run it prior
           to starting a new file.

```

(ed. note: Program is listed on insert. File in ring binder for future use.)

W.K. Weilbacher was in technical support for Radio Shack for two (2) years. It took him about four (4) days to write the above program, which he had copyrighted in August of 1980. He also noted that with the pocket computer, you must close a "for-next" loop before opening another one.

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of each publication reprinting a USERS' NEWS i-  
tem should be forwarded to 80-COMPUTER USERS OF  
HOUSTON.

## REVIEW

By BILL SIMPSON

SUBJECT: Model I, Level  
II, Reference Card (26-2106)

This reference card is a fanfold card containing 14 panels of information. It is a summary of all the Basic Statements, Basic functions, TRSDOS commands and utilities, and several other items of summarized information. This is not an educational tool---rather it is for the person who knows the Basic language but does not have all the syntax rules and options memorized.

All the TRSDOS commands are listed, but they are shaded so they are recognizable as being different. Five of the panels list the Basic statements, such as CLS, GOTO, LPRINT and RETURN. Three of the panels list the Basic functions, such as CHR\$(C), INKEY\$, MEM and SIN(X). Two of the panels list the TRSDOS commands and utilities, such as BASIC, DIRid, KILL and VERIFY. One panel gives the correct power-up sequence for the Model I. One panel gives the Basic error messages. The last two panels list the Control Keys, Basic Operators, Basic Special Characters, Basic Edit Commands and Video Control Codes.

When programming or debugging programs, this card is very handy. The cost is about \$ 1.00.



## TAPE LIBRARY

Tape Librarian, Floyd Atkinson reports that due to the non-standardization of cassette-based systems because of head alignment there will be a delay in getting tapes to the members. Every effort is being made to produce a testing and alignment tape so that all members' recorders will play the tapes made. Apparently, some members have been having trouble playing the tapes because some tapes made on one recorder will not play on all others. Atkinson reports that as soon as the alignment tape is received, he will notify all members so alignment of tape heads can be done.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### BASE 2 PRINTERS

parallel or serial port  
100 characters per second  
bi-directional  
variable line length  
tractor or friction drive

**\$ 390.00**

(includes shipping)

SMITH HASELWOOD 772-0074

FOR SALE-Model 33 Teletype....includes documentation...\$ 150.00...also, 2 sets 16k ram chips.....\$ 37.50 per set...call Smith Haselwood at 772-0074.

\* \* \*

CELESTINO REYES is looking for someone to explain basic machine language to him. Anyone who can help, call Celestino at 691-1059.

\* \* \*

## SALE of MAILING LIST

Several firms have requested that the mailing list of USERS' NEWS be bought for advertising purposes. In the past, the group has refused to release the names of our group members, however the amount offered per name could add to the club's treasury and delay the increasing of membership dues.

Many members already are on the mailing lists of several companies.

If you do not want your name included on the mailing list that will be sold, please notify VP/SEC. Royce Bordman to take your name off of the mailing list which will be distributed to other organizations and companies. Contact Royce at 2806 Campbell, Houston, Texas, 77080.

## WHAT'S NEW?

Soon there will be five (5) RADIO SHACK Computer Centers in Houston. Everyone is familiar with the two (2) most well known centers (6813 Southwest Freeway and 5900 North Freeway) but there are some who do not know about the center in Edgebrook Plaza at 11543 Gulf Freeway. Also, a new Center has opened in the Cypress Station Shopping Center at 211-C F.M. 1960 West. The fifth Center is slated to open sometime in February in downtown Houston at 708 Dallas. John Berry of COMPUTERLAND at 6100 Westheimer in Briar-grove Plaza reports they have received part of their first shipment of TRS-80 software.

## WHO'S NEW?

Each month, USERS' NEWS will feature a short profile of the new members who joined our group at the previous meeting. At the last meeting, several new members joined our group.

\* \* \* \*

THOMAS COOK has a Model I, Level II, 16k, cassette. He is in charge of 6 Model II's and 1 Model III at Dow Chemical using the CPM Operating System.

\* \* \* \*

LOUIS GALLOWAY uses a TI Model I, 64k with 2 disk drives and word processor. He is a systems consultant working on IBM mainframes.

\* \* \* \*

BASIL MITCHELL has an OSI-CIP, 24k, with 2 disk drives, and an aluminum paper printer. He is an electronics technician at Corrintec. Although Basil does not have a TRS-80, he has joined our group hoping that much of what we have can be adapted to his system since his system uses the same microsoft basic.

\* \* \* \*

CELESTINO REYES has a Model I, Level II, 16k with cassette, quick printer and modem. He is a lead designer for Brown & Root and works with Computer Aid Drafting. He has had his system for almost 4 1/2 years.

\* \* \* \*

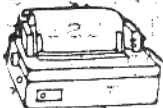
KEITH SIMPSON has a Model III, 16k with cassette. He is a coordinator for Mid West Electric. He got his system for Christmas and is just learning about it.

\* \* \* \*

## OFFICERS ELECTED

Three new officers were elected to six (6) month terms at the December meeting.

BILL YOUNG was elected President of 80-COMPUTER USERS OF HOUSTON. Our new Vice-President/Treasurer is ROYCE BORDMAN and the group elected KIP BARTRAN as Secretary. Any business matters should be directed to our new officers.



## NOTES FROM COMPUSERVE

The "QUME PRINTERS" have been recalled. Contact a local Radio Shack store for instructions on where the printer can be repaired. All Radio Shack stores are supposed to be aware of the recall. The printer will be repaired at no cost to the owner. Owners of the printers who sent in their registration cards will be getting a letter advising him of the recall.

Again, Radio Shack is advising all who have ordered any computer hardware (or a computer) to contact Computer Services about when your item(s) will be delivered. Call Computer Services from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at:

1-800-772-5914 or the main switchboard number at 1-800-390-3583. Calling earlier or later in the day will get you through sooner.

# The Program Doctor

HAVING PROBLEMS WITH YOUR BASIC PROGRAMS? Ask the PROGRAM DOCTOR for help. Send your programs on cassette or printed list for testing. The PROGRAM DOCTOR will also try to help with other system programs and answer programming questions.

\*\*\*\*\*

Since I'm just starting this column, I will tell about some problems I had in converting Radio Shack's Level I Checkers to Level II. The LEVEL II BASIC REFERENCE MANUAL has some information in Appendix I on some common problems. One thing I think they should have mentioned is the difference in logical operators. In Level II, you need to substitute "or" for "+" and "and" for "\*". Naturally, you have to study the logic in a program to determine if a "+" or "\*" need to be changed.

One big difference between Level I and Level II is how the computer handles INPUT. Level II will blank the next line after an INPUT. In Checkers, this means an entire line of alternate half-squares of the checkerboard was blanked out along with the numbers of the squares. These need to be redrawn after every INPUT.

For this, I included the following in a subroutine starting at 6000.

```
6100 FOR Y=0 TO 7:PRINT@(256+8*Y),(17+Y);:NEXT
```

This would replace the numbers whenever the program did a GOSUB 6000.

Next, I changed line 6200 from:

```
6200 FOR N=9 TO 15 STEP 2:GOSUB 3500:NEXT N:FOR X=0 TO 1:
```

```
FOR Y=12 TO 14: SET (X,Y):NEXT Y:NEXT X:RETURN
```

to the following:

```
6200 FOR N=9 TO 15 STEP 2:GOSUB 3500:NEXT N:FOR Y=12 TO 14:
```

```
FOR X=0 TO 6 STEP 2:FOR Z=X*16 TO X*16+15:SET(Z,Y):
```

```
NEXT Z:NEXT X:NEXT Y:RETURN
```

This redrew the upper half of the alternate squares.

Lines 1005 and 1010 had conditional GOSUB 6000. I removed those GOSUB's and added lines 1002 and 1008.

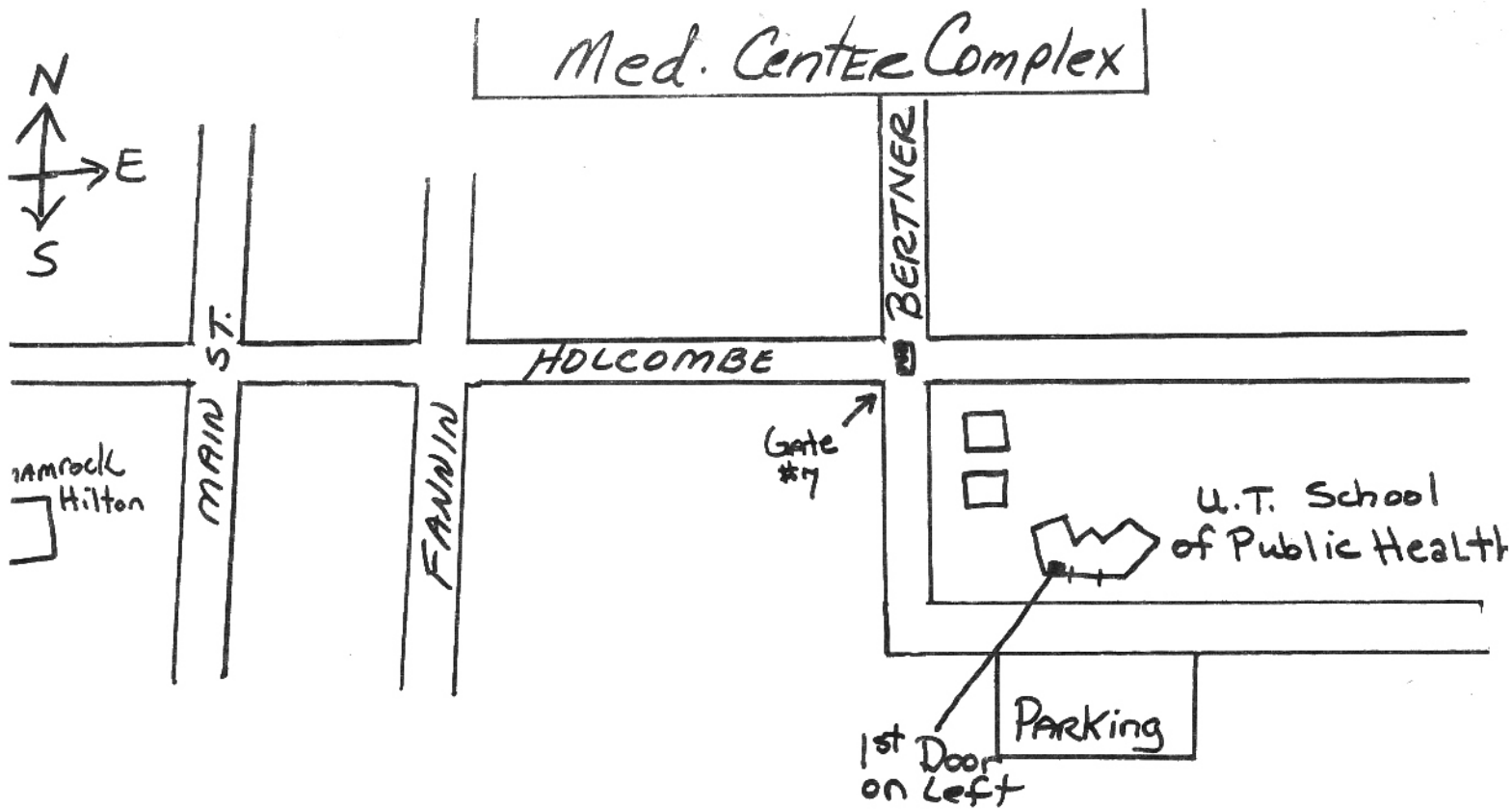
```
1002 GOSUB 6000
```

```
1008 GOSUB 6000
```

This caused the lines to be redrawn after each INPUT.

\*\*\*\*\*

THE PROGRAM DOCTOR (Emory C. Wood) received his A.A.S. Data Processing from Lee Jr. College and his B.S. in Engineering Technology from Lamar University. He worked in programming for the City of Baytown for 1 1/2 years and is now the Systems Programmer for Cravens Dargan & Co., for whom he has worked 3 1/2 years. He has had experience in various languages: Cobol, Basic, Fortran, RPG, ALC, Compass and EasyCoder. He owns a TRS-80 Level II, 16k.



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\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\* 80-USERS OF HOUSTON \*\*  
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ATTENDING PROFESSIONAL MEETING INSIDE  
THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

*Bill Young*

BILL YOUNG, President  
80-COMPUTER USERS OF HOUSTON